

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-19 are currently pending, wherein claim 4 has been canceled, claims 1, 2, 5-8 and 12 have been amended, and new claims 13-19 have been added. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

At the outset, Applicants note that three (3) separate information disclosure statements have been filed on April 6, 2006, March 20, 2007, and June 11, 2007, respectively. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the reference cited in these IDSs be considered and initialed copies if the submitted SB08 forms be provided with the next action.

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claim 3, and the indication the claims 4-6 and 9 contain allowable subject matter.

On page 2 of the Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 2, 7, 8 and 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Publication No. JP 08-189667 to Masayuki et al. ("Masayuki"). Claims 1 and 2 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of canceled claim 4, rendering this rejection moot with regard thereto. Regarding claims 7, 8, and 10-12, as amended, this claims now depend from allowed claim 3, rendering this rejection moot.

New claims 13-19 are allowable because they include the allowable subject matter of one of allowed claims 5, 6, 8, and/or 9.

The application is in condition for allowance. Notice of same is earnestly solicited. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Penny Caudle Reg. No. 46,607 at the telephone

Application No. 10/574,895
Amendment dated April 10, 2009
Reply to Office Action of January 26, 2009

Docket No.: 4633-0167PUS1

number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: April 10, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By Penny Caudle #46,607
D. Richard Anderson
Registration No.: 40,439
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000